

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 9, with the following amended paragraph:

The gas bag module according to the invention is preferably used in a steering wheel according to the invention, in which the projecting section forms a part of the surface of the steering wheel which is visible from the outside, and advantageously covers a gap, which impairs the visual appearance of the steering wheel, formed between the gas bag module and the adjoining steering wheel skeleton encased in foam, ~~which gap impairs the visual appearance of the steering wheel.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

The gas bag module can be fastened so as to be movable in the axial direction in the steering wheel and can be designed such that through the axial movement, a contact can be closed for actuating a horn. In this case, a generator carrier, the lateral edge of which continues into a visible section of the steering wheel, is particularly advantageous. A pressure onto the projecting section, taking place for actuating the horn, is transferred directly to a contact arranged for example in the region of the detent hooks, which brings about a considerable reduction of tolerances compared with known steering wheels, in which the vertical movement is passed on

from the covering cap to the module housing. Furthermore, this results in a reduction in components.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

The gas bag module 10 contains a generator carrier 12 which has a cup-shaped form with a depression (interior of the "cup") 14 in which a gas generator 16 and also a folded gas bag 18 (shown diagrammatically) are arranged. The cup-shaped portion of the carrier forms a receptacle for the gas generator 16. The gas generator 16 is fastened in the generator carrier 12 in a suitable known manner. In the example shown here, the module housing is formed entirely by the generator carrier 12. However, it is also possible to arrange the generator ~~carrier~~ carrier 12 in a separate module housing which is fastened to the steering wheel.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

On a base section 19 of the cup-shaped receptacle, detent elements 20 are formed on in one piece, by which the gas bag module 10 can be latched in place on a skeleton 21 of the steering wheel 100 (see FIG. 2), for example. The shape and construction of the detent elements 20 can be coordinated by the specialist in the art to the respective purpose of use. Preferably, the steering wheel 100 and the detent elements 20 are constructed such that the gas bag module 10 can be moved

in the steering wheel 100 in axial direction for actuating a horn.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 22, with the following amended paragraph:

The depression 14 can be closed by a covering cap 26 which is pushed into the depression 14 with a press fit. The covering cap 26 is adapted in shape to the cross-section of the cup-shaped receptacle and has a rim 22 which in the state when placed in position projects into the depression 14 and then fixes the covering cap 26 on the generator carrier 12, for example by means of detent hooks 27 (see FIG. 2).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

If the module 10 is inserted into a receiving space 110 of a steering wheel 100, as can be seen in FIG. 2, the laterally projecting section 24 forms a visible part of the exterior of the hub region of the steering wheel ~~110~~ 100. The projecting section 24 is shaped corresponding to the geometry of the steering wheel 100 and has sections running along the spokes. The gap 120 formed between the wall 28 of the cup-shaped receptacle of the generator carrier 12 and the boundary of the receiving space 110 of the steering wheel 100 on the steering wheel side is covered to the exterior by the projecting section or sections 24.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

The actuation of the horn takes place for example by pressure onto the laterally projecting section 24, the force being transferred directly onto the horn contacts via the single-piece generator carrier 12.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

The generator carrier 12 consists in part of a two- or multiple-component plastic. In the embodiment shown here, the wall 28 and the base section 19 of the "cup" are formed from a hard plastic which ensures a high stability, e.g. from a glass fiber-reinforced polyamide-6, from polyethylene (PET), from polyoxymethylene (POM) or from another suitable material. In the detent elements 20 and the projecting section 24, on the other hand, such a hard plastic is used as carrier component 30 and coated with a softer plastic 32, e.g. a styrene-based plastic (e.g. SEBS), a thermoplastic urethane (TPU), a thermoplastic olefin or another suitable material. The generator carrier 12, thus, has a layer structure, each layer being defined by one of the components.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

The material of the coating 32 is selected according to the function which is to be fulfilled. For the coating 32 of detent surfaces 34 of the detent hooks 20, a material is favorable which acts in a noise- and vibration-damping manner. For the coating 32 of the laterally projecting section 24, in turn, a material is advantageous which corresponds in feel, appearance and environmental stability to the desired characteristics for a visible surface of the steering wheel.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

The generator carrier 12 forms a single-piece component 30 with the detent hooks 20 and the projecting section or sections 24, the non-coated sections preferably consisting entirely of the carrier component. The coating 32 of the respective parts of the generator carrier 12 preferably consists of a thin layer which can be applied over a large area.